



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

APRIL 25, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plans prepared by Deidre Lake, [Communication4Integration Inc.](#)

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NEWSCAST 1

83-YEAR-OLD ALBERTA NEWLYWEDS WIN STARS LOTTERY



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/83-year-old-newlyweds-win-lottery-1.3544780>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) 4/5 or equivalent

WARM UP: Look at the picture and title above. Newlyweds refer to a couple that got married recently. Do you believe in love at old age? Do you know what the STARS Air Ambulance Lottery is?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the vocabulary below used in the news story. Match the word with the correct definition. The first one is done for you.

ANSWER	WORD	DEFINITION
C	1. pass away	A. raffle
	2. remarry	B. make an advance on a person
	3. lottery	C. die
	4. get hitched	D. trade
	5. valued at	E. people from 80 to 89 years old
	6. marvelous	F. excited
	7. make the first move	G. marry again
	8. casino	H. amazing
	9. exchange	I. move to a new place
	10. octogenarians	J. get married
	11. beloved	K. dearly loved
	12. thrilled	L. priced at
	13. relocate	M. a place where gambling games are played

LISTENING TASK 1 (Audio clip 0:10)

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension. Use the space below to take notes.

LISTENING TASK 2 (Audio clip 0:10)

Listen to the newscast again. Answer the following questions while you listen. Review the questions before listening to the newscast so you know what information to listen for.

1. What did Olive Pitts never dream of doing after her husband passed away?
2. What happened a week ago?
3. What did they win?
4. How much is the new home in Sylvan Lake valued at?
5. How did Olive and her husband meet?
6. Why did Olive move to Alberta?
7. When did they get married?
8. Are they planning on relocating to Sylvan Lake?
9. What are they planning to do with the house they won?
10. How does Olive feel about the past year?

LISTENING TASK 3 (Audio clip 0:10)

Listen to the newscast again. Follow along with the script below.

After her husband **passed away**, Olive Pitts never dreamed she would **remarry**. But over the last few years, the 83-year-old has learned that you're never too old to win the **lottery** of love — and the real **lottery**.

A year ago, Pitts **got hitched**.

A week ago, she and her new husband, Peter, won the STARS Air Ambulance lottery. They are now the owners of a new home in Sylvan Lake, Alberta valued at \$900,000.

The chain of **marvelous** events all started on a bus trip from Alberta to Idaho. Olive **made the first move**. She says, "We were at the **casino** and playing the machines and I just sat next to him and started talking. [We] ended up **exchanging** numbers." At the time, the **octogenarians** lived in different places.

Peter was in Taber, a three-hour drive southeast of Calgary. Olive had her feet firmly planted in Moose Jaw — a city she had called home since she was 16.

After about a year and a half of long-distance, Olive crossed the Saskatchewan border to join her **beloved** in Alberta. And on April 11, 2015 — Olive Pitts became Olive Huvenaars.

While the newlyweds are **thrilled** about their big win, Olive has no plans to **relocate** from Taber to Sylvan Lake.

"I moved one time to Alberta from Saskatchewan and that was a big move. I can't do that again," she said. "It's much too big a house for two people, and two older people to do stairs? No. I don't think so."

She thinks they'll sell the home, but said they can't make a decision until they actually go and see it for the first time. Either way, "We've had a pretty good year, I think." Olive says.

Check your answers to the questions using the script.

CONCLUSION

What do you think about this story?

NEWSCAST 2

YOUNG COUPLE STRIVES TO KEEP INDIGENOUS WEDDING TRADITIONS ALIVE



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/couple-strives-to-keep-indigenous-weddings-alive-1.3533999>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) 5 or equivalent

WARM UP

Look at the title and the picture. What do you think the newscast is about?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the following background information below before listening to the newscast.

Nlaka'pamux First Nation

The Nlaka'pamux are an indigenous First Nations people of the Interior Salish language group in southern British Columbia. Their traditional territory includes parts of Washington.

Indigenous (in'dijənəs)

Natives of a particular area.

Colonization

The history of Canada, in large part, is the colonization of Aboriginal people. Europeans thought of themselves as “civilized” and indigenous people as “savages”. Colonization and racism have had a disastrous impact on indigenous people with land being taken away and children being taken from their parents and culture to attend “white” residential schools.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the vocabulary below used in the news story. Match the word with the correct definition. The first one is done for you.

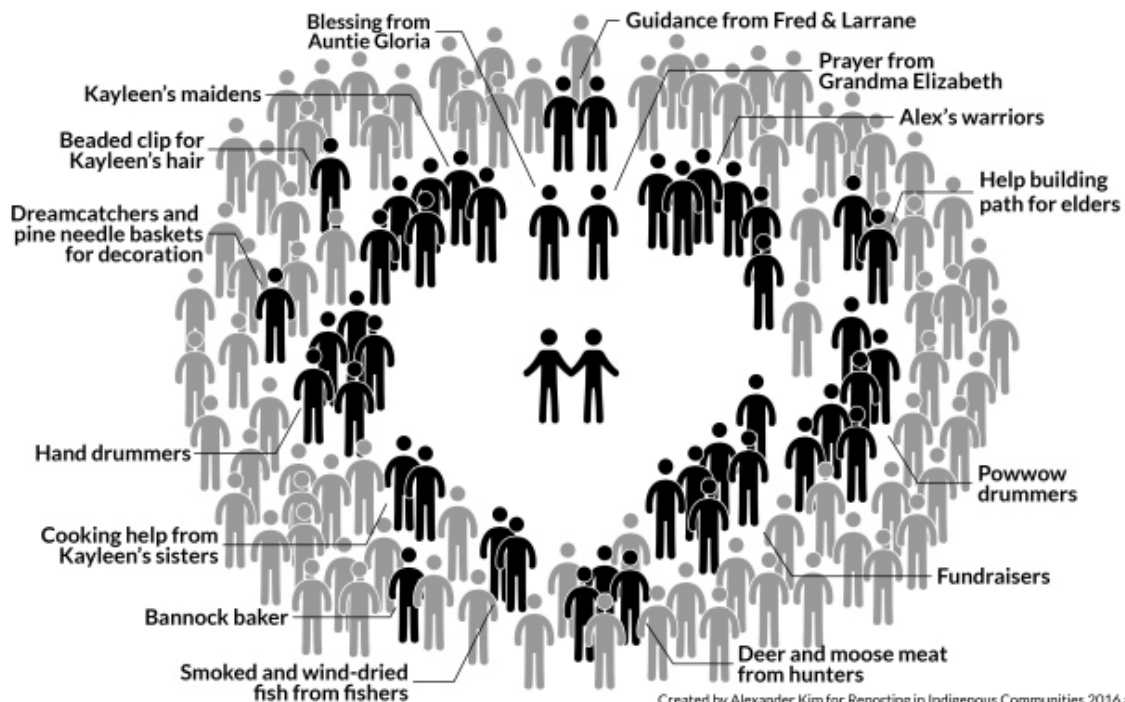
ANSWER	WORD	DEFINITION
G	1. host	A. show; demonstrate; display; express
	2. rare	B. a steep rock; ledge
	3. edge	C. seniors; leaders; people of greater age
	4. cliff	D. something that doesn't occur often
	5. traditional	E. formal religious or public events
	6. ceremonies	F. organize and carry out; perform
	7. reflect	G. entertain guests
	8. heritage	H. a party where guests bring a dish
	9. values	I. customary; long-established; ritual
	10. elders	J. tradition; history; past; culture; custom
	11. conduct	K. verge; border; outer limit
	12. potluck	L. principles, morals; ethics; standards

READING ACTIVITY 1

Look at the following diagram and read the information that follows.

An Nlaka'pamux wedding is a community affair

Kayleen Hanna and Alex Harry are hosting a wedding, but they're not doing it alone. More than 150 guests are expected. Many of them have a role in the celebration.



Created by Alexander Kim for Reporting in Indigenous Communities 2016 at the UBC Graduate School of Journalism. People icons designed by Freepik.

Harry and Hanna say the whole community is involved in the event.

They want to represent their heritage by following Fred Henry's example, an elderly couple that had a traditional wedding in 2010.

At their wedding, hand drummers will play and sing as the couple walks in. The walkway will be strung with boughs of cedar, a sacred tree to the Nlaka'pamux.

Harry's aunt Gloria Phillips will give a blessing in their native language. His 98-year-old grandmother Elizabeth Lytton will say a prayer.

Hanna will wear a beaded hairclip with a rose on it to remember her grandmother, Beatrice Rose, who passed away in 2000. Their corsages will be crafted with native plants such as cedar, thyme, juniper and Douglas fir.

Guests will bring their signature Nlaka'pamux dishes to the potluck wedding, including wind-dried fish, deer steaks and bannock.

Alex had his friends come to Nicomen Falls to help build a separate pathway for the elders to walk up the cliff.

QUESTIONS

Respond to the following questions using the diagram and the text above.

1. Whom are the couple getting guidance from?
2. Who will say a prayer?
3. Who is helping build a pathway for elders to walk up the cliff?
4. What type of traditional food will be served at the wedding?
5. Why will Hanna wear a beaded hairclip?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 2:28)

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension. If you wish to listen to it a second time and follow along with the script on page 12, feel free to do so.

NEWSCAST 3

ISRAELI GIRL, 12, FINDS ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AMULET



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/egyptian-amulet-1.3542435>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

What do you know about Egyptian history? Have you ever visited Egypt? An amulet is a small piece of jewelry thought to give protection against evil, danger, or disease.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the vocabulary below to help you better understand the story.

WORD/PHRASE	DEFINITION
discovered	found
amulet	a small piece of jewelry thought to give protection against evil, danger, or disease
Pharaohs	ancient Egyptian kings
take part in	participate in; join in an activity; be involved
Temple Mount Sifting Project	an Israeli archeological project dedicated to recovering artifacts from soil removed from the Temple Mount during the construction of an underground Mosque from 1996 to 1999.
initiative	a plan, approach, or strategy
sort through	to look through things and organize them
discarded	thrown away
temples	a building devoted to worship or a place of god or gods
pendant	a piece of jewelry that hangs from a chain worn around the neck
Thutmose III	the 6 th Pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty
Passover	a major Jewish spring festival in memory of the liberation of Israelites from Egyptian slavery
bondage	slavery, servitude
significance	importance
meaningful	significant, important, worthwhile

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 4:12)

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio clip 4:12)

Listen to the newscast again. Fill in the blanks with the word that you hear.

A 12-year-old Israeli girl has _____ an ancient Egyptian amulet dating back more than _____ years to the days of the Pharaohs.

Neshama Spielman and her family _____ the Temple Mount Sifting Project, an initiative to sort through earth _____ from the area of the biblical _____ in Jerusalem.

There she found a _____-shaped amulet bearing the name of the Egyptian ruler Thutmose III.

More than _____ volunteers have participated since the project began in 2004.

The discovery comes days before Jews _____ the holiday of Passover, marking their _____ from bondage in Egypt.

Spielman says Tuesday she was _____ to learn of the significance of the amulet she found. She says "celebrating Passover this year is going to be extra _____ to me."

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the correct word or phrase.

discovered	pendant	significance	sort through
took part in	meaningful	temples	amuluts

1. Everyone in the community _____ the wedding celebration and did something for the newlyweds.
2. When she _____ \$1,000 under the mattress, she was surprised.
3. She had to _____ all of her clothes and decide which items she wanted to keep and which items she was going to donate or throw away.
4. The _____ she was given after her grandmother passed away was very _____ to her. She wore it always.
5. My boyfriend loves ancient history and wants to travel around the world and visit various _____.

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of April 25th.	0:00
Newscast 1 (Local) 83-year-old Alberta newlyweds win STARS lottery http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/83-year-old-newlyweds-win-lottery-1.3544780	<p>After her husband passed away, Olive Pitts never dreamed she would remarry. But over the last few years, the 83-year-old has learned that you're never too old to win the lottery of love — and the real lottery.</p> <p>A year ago, Pitts got hitched.</p> <p>A week ago, she and her new husband, Peter, won the STARS Air Ambulance lottery. They are now the owners of a new home in Sylvan Lake, Alberta valued at \$900,000.</p> <p>The chain of marvelous events all started on a bus trip from Alberta to Idaho. Olive made the first move. She says, "We were at the casino and playing the machines and I just sat next to him and started talking. [We] ended up exchanging numbers." At the time, the octogenarians lived in different places.</p> <p>Peter was in Taber, a three-hour drive southeast of Calgary. Olive had her feet firmly planted in Moose Jaw — a city she had called home since she was 16.</p> <p>After about a year and a half of long-distance, Olive crossed the Saskatchewan border to join her beloved in Alberta. And on April 11, 2015 — Olive Pitts became Olive Huvenaars.</p> <p>While the newlyweds are thrilled about their big win, Olive has no plans to relocate from Taber to Sylvan Lake.</p> <p>"I moved one time to Alberta from Saskatchewan and that was a big move. I can't do that again," she said. "It's much too big a house for two people, and two older people to do stairs. No. I don't think so."</p> <p>She thinks they'll sell the home, but said they can't make a decision until they actually go and see it for the first time. Either way, "We've had a pretty good year, I think." Olive says.</p>	0:10

<p>Newscast 2 (National)</p> <p>Young couple strives to keep indigenous wedding traditions alive</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/couple-strives-to-keep-indigenous-weddings-alive-1.3533999</p>	<p>This May, two young members of a BC First Nation are hosting a rare gathering.</p> <p>Alex Harry and Kayleen Hanna, both 25, are inviting more than 150 family members and friends to the edge of a cliff at Nicomen Falls, a four-hour drive from Vancouver, to witness a traditional wedding.</p> <p>In many indigenous communities, wedding traditions were lost due to colonization. But in recent years, some marriage ceremonies have been making a comeback.</p> <p>Harry and Hanna are members of the Nicomen and Lytton Indian bands near Lytton, B.C. They say they want a wedding that reflects their heritage and values.</p> <p>Their wedding will be at the top of a waterfall on the Nicomen Indian reserve where Harry grew up. Community elders will conduct the ceremony in the Thompson language, drummers will perform songs and there will be a potluck with traditional foods.</p> <p>Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs is a marriage commissioner and has officiated more than 70 weddings, mostly for indigenous couples. The weddings he sees often blend indigenous and western traditions.</p> <p>Hanna and Harry hope to pass the traditions along to their future children. Hanna says, "We'll be able to tell them we did it our way, because we are our own people," she says.</p>	<p>2:28</p>
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<p>Newscast 3 (International)</p> <p>Israeli girl, 12, finds ancient Egyptian amulet</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/egyptian-amulet-1.3542435</p>	<p>A 12-year-old Israeli girl has discovered an ancient Egyptian amulet dating back more than 3,200 years to the days of the Pharaohs.</p> <p>Neshama Spielman and her family took part in the Temple Mount Sifting Project, an initiative to sort through earth discarded from the area of the biblical temples in Jerusalem.</p> <p>There she found a pendant-shaped amulet bearing the name of the Egyptian ruler Thutmose III.</p> <p>More than 170,000 volunteers have participated since the project began in 2004.</p> <p>The discovery comes days before Jews celebrate the holiday of Passover, marking their freedom from bondage in Egypt.</p> <p>Spielman says Tuesday she was excited to learn of the significance of the amulet she found. She says "celebrating Passover this year is going to be extra meaningful to me."</p>	<p>4:12</p>
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Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email info@communication4integration.ca

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1
83-YEAR-OLD ALBERTA NEWLYWEDS WIN STARS LOTTERY

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

ANSWER	WORD	DEFINITION
C	1. pass away	A. raffle
G	2. remarry	B. make an advance on a person
A	3. lottery	C. die
J	4. get hitched	D. trade
L	5. valued at	E. people from 80 to 89 years old
H	6. marvelous	F. excited
B	7. make the first move	G. marry again
M	8. casino	H. amazing
D	9. exchange	I. move to a new place
E	10. octogenarians	J. get married
K	11. beloved	K. dearly loved
F	12. thrilled	L. priced at
I	13. relocate	M. a place where gambling games are played

LISTENING TASK 2

- What did Olive Pitts never dream of doing after her husband passed away?
She never dreamt she would remarry.
- What happened a week ago?
A week ago, she and her new husband, Peter, won the STARS Air Ambulance lottery.
- What did they win?
They won a new home in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.
- How much is the new home in Sylvan Lake valued at?
\$900,000
- How did Olive and her husband meet?
It all started on a bus trip from Alberta to Idaho. Olive approached Peter at the casino.
- Why did Olive move to Alberta?
She moved to be with her beloved after a year and a half.
- When did they get married?
They married on April 11, 2015.
- Are they planning on relocating to Sylvan Lake?
No, they don't think so.
- What are they planning to do with the house they won?
They'll most likely sell it.
- How does Olive feel about the past year?
She feels they have had an amazing year.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2

YOUNG COUPLE STRIVES TO KEEP INDIGENOUS WEDDING TRADITIONS ALIVE

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

ANSWER	WORD	DEFINITION
G	1. host	A. show; demonstrate; display; express
D	2. rare	B. a steep rock; ledge
K	3. edge	C. seniors; leaders; people of greater age
B	4. cliff	D. something that doesn't occur often
I	5. traditional	E. formal religious or public events
E	6. ceremonies	F. organize and carry out; perform
A	7. reflect	G. entertain guests
J	8. heritage	H. a party where guests bring a dish
L	9. values	I. customary; long-established; ritual
C	10. elders	J. tradition; history; past; culture; custom
F	11. conduct	K. verge; border; outer limit
H	12. potluck	L. principles, morals; ethics; standards

QUESTIONS

Respond to the following questions using the diagram and the text above.

1. Whom are the couple getting guidance from?

Fred and Larrane

2. Who will say a prayer?

Elizabeth Lytton

3. Who is helping build a pathway for elders to walk up the cliff?

Alex's friends

4. What type of traditional food will be served at the wedding?

Nlaka'pamux dishes such as wind-dried fish, deer steaks and bannock

5. Why will Hanna wear a beaded hairclip?

In memory of her grandmother, Beatrice Rose, who passed away in 2000

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3

ISRAELI GIRL, 12, FINDS ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AMULET

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

A 12-year-old Israeli girl has **discovered** an ancient Egyptian amulet dating back more than **3,200** years to the days of the Pharaohs.

Neshama Spielman and her family **took part in** the Temple Mount Sifting Project, an initiative to sort through earth **discarded** from the area of the biblical **temples** in Jerusalem.

There she found a **pendant**-shaped amulet bearing the name of the Egyptian ruler Thutmose III.

More than **170,000** volunteers have participated since the project began in 2004.

The discovery comes days before Jews **celebrate** the holiday of Passover, marking their **freedom** from slavery in Egypt.

Spielman says Tuesday she was **excited** to learn of the significance of the amulet she found. She says "celebrating Passover this year is going to be extra **meaningful** to me."

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the correct word or phrase.

discovered	pendant	significance	sort through
took part in	meaningful	temples	amuluts

1. Everyone in the community **took part in** the wedding celebration and did something for the newlyweds.
2. When she **discovered** \$1,000 under the mattress, she was surprised.
3. She had to **sort through** all of her clothes and decide which items she wanted to keep and which items she was going to donate or throw away.
4. The **pendant** she was given after her grandmother passed away was very **meaningful** to her. She wore it always.
5. My boyfriend loves ancient history and wants to travel around the world and visit various **temples**.